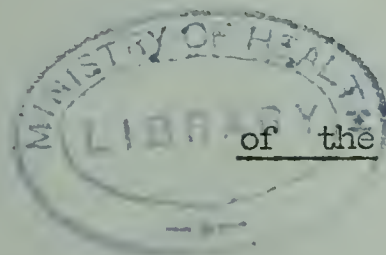


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- BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL -

- ANNUAL REPORT -



- MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH -

for 1953.

To the Chairman & Members of the
BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Blackrod Urban District for the year 1953.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2392.4
Population (Preliminary Census) 1951	3,151
Registrar General's Estimate of population mid 1953 ...	3,078
No. of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1953	1,020
Rateable Value	£13,496
Sum represented by a penny rate	£50. 19. 1d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Population estimated at mid 1953 3,078.

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
<u>Live Births</u>	Legitimate	60	34	26
	Illegitimate	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
		63	36	27
Live birth-rate per 1,000 est. pop.:—				
Crude rate <u>20.5</u> ; adjusted rate <u>20.7</u>				
<u>Still Births</u>	Legitimate	1	1	—
	Illegitimate	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
		1	1	—

Still birth-rate per 1,000 total births - 16.

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 <u>total</u> births	Nil
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 <u>live</u> births	16
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 <u>live</u> births	16.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Deaths (all forms)	<u>43</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>20</u>

Mortality rates per 1,000 est. population -

Total (all forms)	Crude rate	<u>14.0</u>
	Adjusted rate	<u>13.4</u>

Respiratory T.B.	0.32
Malignant neoplasms	3.57

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Deaths of Infants under			
1 year of age (legitimate)	1	-	1
Deaths of Infants under 4			
weeks of age (legitimate)	1	-	1

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1953.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	1
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	-
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	2	-
" " - lung	1	-
" " - breast	-	1
" " - uterus	-	1
Other Malignant neoplasms	3	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	2
Coronary Disease angina	5	2
Other heart disease	5	7
Pneumonia	2	-
Bronchitis	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	1
Accident	1	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	23	20

Note:- There were 3 transferable deaths which are included in the above.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were 97 cases of Infectious diseases notified during 1953 compared with 13 cases during the previous year. Measles accounted for 59 cases, and Scarlet Fever for 19. One of the Scarlet Fever cases was sent to Hospital.

There was one case of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis notified.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED
DURING 1953.

	Total cases all ages	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	45-	65 & over	Total deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	19		1	6	10	2					1
Measles	59	3	13	21	21	1					
Whooping Cough	17	1	3	6	6	1					
Meningococcal Infection	1	1								1	1
Pul. Tub.										1	
Non-Pul. Tub.	1		1							1	
	97	5	18	33	37	4				2	2

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES for the AREA
(National Assistance Act, 1948)

No application was received.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS

There is a practising Midwife in the district, and a nurse from Westhoughton comes into Blackrod daily.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

For Infectious Diseases - By arrangement with the Divisional Health Office at Leigh, cases of Infectious Diseases are sent to the nearest Hospital (on the List) that can accept accommodation.

IMMUNISATION

The immunisation of children against Diphtheria is now undertaken by the Divisional Medical Officer of Health and the children from the Blackrod District receive treatment at Westhoughton. Special transport is provided pending the provision of a clinic in Blackrod.

Public Health Staff

The Public Health Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer and a Sanitary Inspector who is also Surveyor. A visiting nurse is provided by the County.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Ambulance facilities for all cases are controlled by the Divisional Health Office, Leigh, and the needs for this district are met by the Ambulance Station at Horwich.

MORTUARY

The mortuary, situated at the cemetery is sufficient for the needs of the district.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION 1953.

Water Supply.

Source of supply:- Council's own Water Undertaking situated in the Horwich U.D. Area. Gathering Grounds:- Moorland in character. Surface water and spring water collected and stored in impounding reservoir.

An adequate supply of water has been maintained throughout the year. The quantity of water supplied has been satisfactory throughout the year.

24 Bacteriological samples have been taken and submitted for analysis. 10 samples were taken from the supply mains, 9 were entirely satisfactory, with one sample indicating slight bacterial pollution. 14 samples were taken from various points in the feeder streams, springs and from the reservoir prior to treatment by chlorination. 5 samples were entirely satisfactory and 9 showed evidence of bacterial pollution.

To maintain a satisfactory water supply, continuous chlorination is carried out to all water prior to it being passed into supply. The plant is automatic in operation and the chlorine dosage is recorded.

The use of tinned lead pipe is required as a precaution against plumbic solvent action on lead. No samples have been submitted for chemical analysis, to ascertain whether the water is having any action on the lead of service pipes.

As a further precaution against pollution all ball fire hydrants have now been replaced with valve type hydrants.

14 new houses have been connected up to the public main, and the total number of houses which are now supplied with a piped water supply from public mains is as follows:-

a)	Direct to Houses	1,050	3,150	persons.
b)	Stand pipes	Nil	Nil	

Bulk quantities of water are supplied to the Adlington U.D. and Wigan R.D.C. by agreement.

Sewerage

The method of treatment of all effluents from the sewers is by broad irrigation. An adequate area of land is available at both main outlets, namely Scot Lane and Nightingale Farm. Improvements to the methods of distribution are required at both outfalls.

Food

Frequent inspections are made at Shops & Food Preparing Premises and Occupants are advised of the requirements of the Model Byelaws.

There are no slaughter houses being used in the District at the present time. All carcass meat is conveyed into the District by covered motor vans from Abattoirs which are sited outside the District.

There are no ice-cream manufacturing premises in the District. 10 shops are registered for the sale of ice-cream, and in all cases only wrapped pre-packed ice-cream is sold.

53 samples of milk were taken from Producers and Producer/Retailers and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for analysis and examination for Tuberculosis bacilli. All samples were satisfactory. One sample taken in the Horwich U.D. area by the Horwich U.D. Sanitary Inspector from a Producer in Blackrod was found to have Tubercle bacilli present. This supply was diverted for heat treatment prior to being sold for home consumption in accordance with the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Scavenging of Streets.

The County Council are the highway authority for Class I & II Roads, and they scavenge and maintain these roads.

The District Council maintain Class III and District Roads, and are responsible for scavenging and maintenance, which is carried out at regular intervals.

Sanitary Inspections during the year

No. of Premises visited	265.
Defects or nuisances discovered	59
Notices served - Informal	59
Statutory	33
Legal Proceedings	4

In the cases where legal proceedings had to be taken these were cases of nuisances under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The Council were successful in each case.

Shops & Offices

85 inspections were made to shops in connection with the provision of the Shops Act, 1950.

4 Inspections were made to Offices in connection with the provision of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades

There are no trades scheduled as offensive Trades in operation in the District.

Public Cleansing

The collection of refuse is carried out by direct labour, one motor vehicle being used for this purpose. A weekly collection has been maintained throughout the year, and the refuse is deposited on low lying agricultural land, and levelled off, bringing more land into agricultural use.

Cesspools and sewerage tanks are emptied with a mechanical pump, and the sludge carted away with a horse-drawn tank.

Schools

There are 3 Junior and 1 Secondary Modern Schools in the District. The sanitary accommodation provided is satisfactory at all the schools. The school yard surface at the Scot Lane and National Schools are uneven and unsatisfactory. Washing facilities at the National School are inadequate and unsatisfactory, and the kitchen arrangements for the serving and handling of meals are also unsatisfactory.

Bake Houses

There are two Bakehouses in the District. Both are inspected regularly, and the conditions found are satisfactory.

Factories & Workshops

Number in the District - 8.

Rayon Processing	1.
Weaving Shed	1.
Joiner	1.
Clogger & Boot Repairer	1.

Rodent Control

Sewers are treated at 6 monthly intervals, and inspection of the district made from time to time.

Public Conveniences in the District

There are two Public Conveniences in the District, one at the junction of Station Road with Manchester Road, and one near the Blackhorse Hotel.

Closet Accommodation at the end of 1953

Privy Middens	14
Closets attached to Middens	20
No. of dry ashpits	Nil
No. of Fresh Water Closets	1,046.

No. of Waste Water Closets - Nil
No. of Refuse Bins - 1,048.

5 Privy Middens have been converted to water closets during the year.

Housing

The Local Authority have completed and tenanted 14 houses during the year, and a further 20 houses are almost ready for tenancy. Tenders have been accepted for a further 56 dwellings, and the construction work has now commenced. Licences have been issued for 4 private houses and 1 Bungalow which are now under construction.

Demolition Orders have been made in respect of 8 Unfit cottages and 9 cottages previously condemned have been demolished.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of the District

The present housing programme for 1954 will provide sufficient houses to reduce to a small figure, the housing waiting list of the local authority, and will give an opportunity for greater action by demolition procedure of some of the unfit houses which are still tenanted. It is to be hoped that the legislation before the Government at the present time, will provide the incentive for Landlords to improve the standard of many of their houses by structural improvements and added amenities. Unless many of these houses have structural improvements carried out fairly quickly, they will have deteriorated to such a state, as to be ripe for demolition.

Improvements to the sewage disposal arrangements particularly to the distribution arrangements and storm water overflows, are required, both at Nightingale Farm and Scot Lane.

The few remaining privy middens require to be converted to water closets.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council's Officers for their kind and valued co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

L. UNSWORTH.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dalton House,
Westhoughton.

21st June, 1954.

